

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 092598
ORIGIN L-03

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ISO-00 SIL-01 LAB-04 HA-05 /027 R

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APPROVED BY IO/IEP:RPOOLE

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L/UNA:SBOND

IO/HR:WEHEWITT

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

INFO USMISSION GENEVA

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ILO, ECOSOC

SUBJECT: WFTU COMPLAINT WITH ILO CONCERNING ALLEGED
VIOLATION OF FREEDOM OF ASSOCIATION IN PUERTO RICO; ECOSOC

REF: GENEVA 3308

1. AS INDICATED REFTEL, A COMPLAINT ALLEGING INFRINGEMENTS
OF TRADE UNION RIGHTS IN PUERTO RICO WAS ADDRESSED TO THE
INTERNATIONAL LABOR ORGANIZATION BY THE WORLD FEDERATION
OF TRADE UNIONS IN A COMMUNICATION DATED NOVEMBER 18, 1977.

2. ON THAT DATE, US WAS NO LONGER A MEMBER OF THE ILO.
ACCORDING TO ILO PROCEDURE (REFTEL, PARA 2), COMPLAINTS
AGAINST MEMBERS OF UN WHO ARE NOT MEMBERS OF THE ILO ARE
REFERRED TO ECOSOC. PROCEDURE ALSO PROVIDES THAT UNSYG
WILL NOTIFY GOVERNMENT CONCERNED BEFORE ECOSOC CONSIDERA-
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TION.

3. DEPARTMENT HAS NOT BEEN NOTIFIED BY UNSYG THAT ISSUE
WOULD BE CONSIDERED AT THIS SESSION OF ECOSOC. GIVEN
SHORT TIME BEFORE ECOSOC BEGINS, WE PRESUME THAT ISSUE
WILL NOT BE TAKEN UP THIS SESSION OF ECOSOC.

4. USDEL SHOULD SEEK TO CONFIRM THAT THIS ECOSOC SESSION WILL NOT CONSIDER MATTER. USDEL SHOULD REFRAIN FROM GIVING IMPRESSION THAT US DESIRES EITHER DELAY OR EXPEDITE HANDLING OF THE ISSUE.

5. DEPARTMENT HAS AS YET BEEN UNABLE TO SECURE INFORMATION RELATING TO THE ALLEGATIONS FROM PUERTO RICO. THEREFORE, PRECIPITOUS HANDLING IN ECOSOC NOT LIKELY TO FURTHER HUMAN RIGHTS INVOLVED OR US ABILITY TO RESPOND INTELLIGENTLY. ACCORDINGLY, IF, IN OPINION OF USDEL, APPROACH REQUESTED IN PARA 4 LIKELY TO PRECIPITATE HANDLING OF CASE, USDEL SHOULD CONSULT DEPARTMENT BEFORE MAKING APPROACH. VANCE

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Message Attributes

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Disposition Approved on Date:
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Disposition History: n/a
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